

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application is being filed concurrently with the entry of the National Stage (Chapter I) of International Application No. PCT/GB2004/003032 under 37 CFR §1.491 which claims the priority of Great Britain Patent Application No. 0316433.2 under 35 USC 119.

This Preliminary Amendment was considered when calculating the filing fee. Accordingly, the total number of claims specified on the Transmittal Letter is 17 and the number of independent claims is 2.

It is not believed at this time that any additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission.

The BOC Group, Inc.  
575 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974  
Phone 908-771-6402  
Fax: 908-771-6159

Respectfully submitted,



Philip H. Von Neida  
Registration No. 34,942  
Attorney for Applicant  
Date: January 12, 2006